

HACKNEY PEOPLE'S PRESS

Lorry Campaign on the road



Despite wretched weather conditions, about 70 residents of Graham Road marched to the Town Hall before the March Council meeting to protest against the vast number of heavy goods lorries using their road as a "rat-run". (See last issue for full details.)

The marchers, including many OAPs and kids, made such an impact on the steps that they were asked by a somewhat puny anti-rates rise demonstration to "give them a chance".

Meeting promised

More seriously, a deputation from Graham Road were seen by acting Council leader John Kotz who promised to convene and chair a meeting for residents living all along the unofficial lorry route from Hackney Wick to Highbury Corner. This could be well timed. CALM (Campaign Against the Lorry Menace) is organising a week of action in June.

The 'Hackney Gazette' managed to get a reporter and photographer along to cover the march - but confined themselves to reporting the fact that the motley bunch of Tories had assembled for an anti-rates rise protest.

Meanwhile, there is a rumour in the air that the GLC intends to resurface Graham Road, re-classify it as an A-road - a complete sacrifice to the juggernaut.

The residents of Graham Road threaten further action to stop this menace.

STRIKE BRINGS VICTORY

Victory came for the striking local authority workers on Friday March 23 when a new wage deal was overwhelmingly accepted. Only about 30-40 were against returning to work at a meeting of about 2,000. The strike committee representing National Union of Public Employees (NUPE), Transport and General Workers Union (TGWU) and General Municipal Workers Union (GMWU) members negotiated the demanded £60 per week minimum with a gradual reduction in hours towards a 35-hour week.

The agreement goes further than the national offer of 9.9 per cent and represents a considerable step forward for Hackney Borough Council manual workers. Most benefit will go to home helps, porters, cleaners and park attendants. In particular, many low-paid women in part-time jobs will be better off. These are the lowest grade council employees, and nearly half the extra money won will go to them. Hours will be cut to 38 a week on July 2, and to 36 in April 1980. Thirty five hours will be achieved when white-collar Town Hall workers are granted the same. The higher paid will receive an additional £2 a week payment.

The total cost of the settlement, which has been described as self-financing above the level of 9.9 per cent offered by central government, although the workers involved are not in production jobs as such. At the Hackney Council meeting on March 28, the cost was given as over £400,000 (equivalent only to about 1p in the £ on the rates). Hackney Council had in any case already allowed a certain amount for wage increases in their budget for 1978/79. This enabled them to backdate the increases to November 1978. There has been underspending this financial year by the Council, caused not least by the strike. They have saved not only on wage bills, but on road repairs, maintenance and running costs.

Overall, in percentage terms, the settlement is worth about 22 to 23 per cent. Negotiations for the higher paid are to continue until July as they have so far won comparatively little from the strike above the nationally-agreed increase. Some workers coming out of the Town Hall after the meeting which agreed to the settlement were heard to say "we got fuck all out of it". For them the main achievement is the shorter working week.

Rate rise

All of which makes nonsense attempts to blame the strikers for the 49 per cent rate rise due to come into force on April 1. Apart from the fact that this is far more than the cost of the settlement the Council has made it clear that the rise is to finance improved social services which the borough so clearly needs. It is unfortunate that due to the political manoeuvrings of the Council, such a rise should come in one leap. Rates have been artificially suppressed for two years to secure more votes for Labour in local government elections, and it is only now that the Council are at least making steps towards implementing some of the socialism in the manifesto by which they were elected.

While Hackney's rates remain comparatively low, recent events do bring to the forefront the injustice of a system which demands that the poorest areas of the country, who need to have the best and most extensive social services, raise so much of the cash that they need within their own area where rateable value is inevitably low. A transfer of wealth on a national, not a local, scale is the long-term answer to which central government must be held responsible. The national offer of 9.9 per cent, regardless of local ability to pay, by the Labour government, indicates that we are a long way from redressing such inequality.

More jobs

An encouraging outcome of the reduction in hours should be more jobs in the vital services the borough runs. Combined with the intention to increase spending from the 47 per cent rates rise, both unions and Council seem happy to use the settlement as a chance to provide more jobs in the future.

One concession the unions gave to the Council was to allow monthly payments of wages. This should reduce bureaucracy and cut administrative costs.

"Backlog work" payments to clear the rubbish left by the strike and catch up on other neglected work have also been agreed. Dustcart drivers, for example, will receive £375 each to clear the piles of rubbish. Cleaners will receive £2 an hour for two weeks to catch up on work not done and home helps an extra 50p an hour for three weeks.

It is difficult to assess

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inside

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Union moves against NF HQ

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Schools closure plans

RATE RISE GREETED BY TORY SHOWER

After the shower of Monopoly money which poured from the public gallery into the Council chamber at the Council's March meeting had subsided, Finance Committee Chairman Eddie Millen was allowed to continue reading his speech, which outlined the Council's spending for the coming year. HPP's reporter was lucky enough to be given a copy of this, so he had plenty of time to read it before Millen was halfway down the first of ten pages of single spaced type. The people up in the gallery could hardly hear him (the acoustics up there are appalling and the members' microphones highly unreliable) and so before the end of the speech they had all been ushered out, after the loudest in a long line of disturbances.

The ratepayers had come in a rather genteel demonstration organised by local Tories, after a public meeting had been held in Chatsworth Road the week before. They shouted all through acting Council leader John Kotz' statement why he had backed down and let the Council workers get the full (and just) settlement of their wage claim. Then they listened to their deputation leader, local Tory John Baverstock, make a very strange speech which was received in almost complete silence by the Council members and public alike.

Tributes

Then, instead of the usual fulsome tributes from the members to the deputation leader ("Thank you, Mr So and So, for the very accomplished manner in which you have told us in what appalling conditions you live on your estate. You do realise that when we say we are going to reintroduce resident caretakers, who

will solve all your problems, we really mean that we are going to have talks about thinking about how best



"That must mean they're going down"

to find a way to get people who might be interested one day in becoming resident caretakers.") Baverstock was rushed off the platform and Millen began his speech.

This was, by his standards, quite an exciting effort. Because the decision had been taken to go for an increased rate he was able to announce a number of projects and increases in services which should take place over the coming year. He introduced his speech by referring to the Labour Party manifesto for the 1978 Council elections.

low rates

(This manifesto has been referred to so often in the chamber that one almost thinks of it as a sacred document, that must have won its place alongside the Bible or Das Kapital as one of the great theoretical works of the human race. In fact, it is a humbly stencilled production of about 50 pages, with a tasteful red cover. Only 500 copies were ever printed, which doesn't say much for the Labour Party's willingness to put its platform up for public view.) The 49% rate increase which Cllr Millen was preparing to levy would only pay for the first part of this programme. He

also announced that a Forward Planning and Planned Budget Group of Council officers would be set up to co-ordinate Council spending over the next three years of the plan.

When Millen sat down, he was congratulated by Tory Councillor Joe Lobenstein on trying to hold the rates down - he knew that Millen had been doing his best, he said. Millen did not look very happy at this compliment, which may or may not be true.

new Bible

There is obviously going to be considerable opposition to this rate rise. However, the rise must be looked at constructively. For many years Hackney has had one of the lowest rates in London. Although it has been aided to a certain extent by government funds, financial cowardice (and a genuine desire not to penalise the low-paid section of the population) has meant that there has been precious little money to spend on improving the standard of life in the borough. Some councils with similar problems have met these by raising and spending more money. Hackney has not. But those boroughs which do, have instantly got money back from the government to add to what they have been spending, because of the way in which government grants to central government work. The money you get in is a percentage (61 per cent in fact) of what you spend. It seems that at last Hackney is beginning to realise that the services can be improved if they ask the public to pay slightly more. All they have to do now is to persuade the public as well. This might be more difficult...

Empty houses on the increase

Just how many houses are lying empty in the borough that people could be living in?



The 1971 census records 5.5 per cent of Hackney's dwellings being vacant, compared with a national average of 3.8 per cent. With a housing stock of approximately 73,000 dwellings the percentage represented some 4,000 empty homes. The latest estimate for 1978, made by the GLC, is 7.2 per cent. Small independent surveys conducted in 1974, 1976 and 1978 confirmed the trend towards an increasing problem.

Despite numerous sets of figures for the amount of property left empty in Hackney, it is a fact that the true extent of houses blighted in this way is not known. The Council do have a large amount of information about how much of their property is empty and why, but accept that there may be a lot that is not recorded. The records for the private sector are very inaccurate; many empty houses and flats are never identified.

new survey

A new housing survey will investigate in detail six wards of Hackney: Clissold, Defoe, Rectory, Northwold, Chatham and Queensbridge. The aim is to find out how

many empty dwellings there really are in this borough, who owns them, how long they have been empty and what condition they are in.

Actually doing the survey will involve noting the empty properties in four or five streets during the last two weeks in April. Information about quite a lot of the properties will already be known. For those that there is no information about, people will be asking neighbours.

The survey is being done by Hackney Community Housing, a shortlife housing co-operative that has been given properties by the Council, Hackney Housing Action Group and other local people who are concerned about the amount of empty property in the borough.

Pressure

The information will be compared to the official figures and published in a report which will be used: 1. to pressure the GLC, Council and housing associations to make full use of their empty property; 2. to find out which houses are being left vacant by speculators to increase their value; to make this known to the Council and to persuade the Council to use their powers of compulsory purchase of these houses. 3. to publicise the waste of houses in Hackney as a further example of a national problem which the government need to recognise by giving the local authorities greater powers to act against speculation and greater impetus to use their own property fully.

If you would be prepared to help with the survey and would like further information, please write (preferably) or phone Charles Hawes, 59 Ball's Pond Road, N1, tel 254 1306.

Leggett Fund needs money now!

As readers of last month's issue will know, we printed an insertion correcting an earlier article we had published concerning Councillor Miles Leggett. We also said that we had to pay the sum of £100 to charity.

£9!

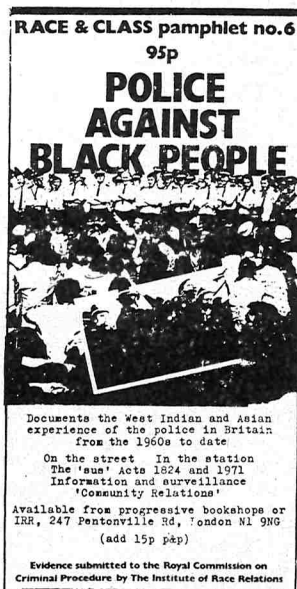
We told Cllr Leggett that we would pay this sum when we had raised it by a public appeal. However the deadline for this is fast approaching and we have so far raised only £9! So we must ask you, our readers again. YOU ARE OUR ONLY SOURCE OF INCOME. If you want HPP to survive, then your donation is needed NOW. Please send whatever you can - large or small - as soon as possible, to Leggett Fund, HPP, c/o 136 Kingsland High Street, E8.

Benefit Bop

And don't forget to come to

the HPP benefit. It's at Chat's Palace on Friday 20 April. We're hoping to raise a lot of the money there and have a good time as well!

SEE FRONT PAGE FOR FULL DETAILS...

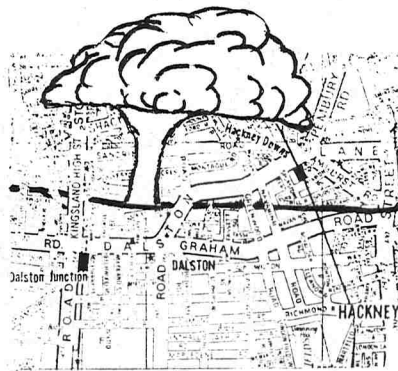


Hackney Anti-Nuclear Festival held at Hoxton Hall on March 25 presented an interesting and even - in terms of the anti-nuke movement - 'star-studded' line-up of speakers and nuclear dissidents. Theatre from CounterAct, a film from Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament and the "almost MP" Ernie Roberts added variety and gloom to an occasion all too empty of genuine local residents.

All shades of environmental opinion were there - but virtually all already dead set against the nuclear spectre. Here lies the crux of the matter, the heart of the dilemma for Hackney Anti-Nuclear Group and eco-freaks everywhere: "How do we get through to the average non-interested/committed person in the street to alert them to the horrors of the nukes?"

Could it be that Three Mile Island, Pennsylvania, will

penetrate the consciousness of Haggerston and Hoxton? Or are we already 20 years too far down the radioactive road?



If anyone doubted that nuclear power lacked relevance to Hackney, they should have listened to Charles Wagstein, a convert from the nuclear camp to the environmentalists, living in the borough. How many local people know of what he told those assembled at Hoxton Hall

that Sunday afternoon? Nuclear fuel passes along that little-used railway track extending from the North London Line through Dalston Junction and out to Essex - to Bradwell nuclear power station. There have already been accidents to fuel in transit, to the highly radioactive fuel. Containers in which the fuel is carried have been tested in a fire situation, but only for half an hour. Longer burning, for example in the event of derailment, could lead to an emission of radioactivity.

Wagstein demonstrated diagrammatically how this could extend across familiar areas of densely-populated north and east London. Not a pleasant prospect. It could be anyone of us whose body has to be monitored for radioactivity level, along with the thousands now facing this in the States... or it could be worse.

ACTION AGAINST N.F. H.Q.



A trades union conference on the subject of the National Front's Shoreditch headquarters was held in the Hackney Trades and Labour Hall on March 17. It was attended by delegates from 13 unions and three Trades Councils and by representatives of the South East Regional Council of the TUC, the Trade Union Advisory Council of the Anti-Nazi League and the TUC's Equal Rights Committee. The conference was chaired by Bill Keys, general secretary of SOGAT.

It became clear early in the discussion that the NF headquarters was not going to be removed overnight. There seemed no possibility of closing the place down by immediate intervention of the Council, the government, the Commission for Racial Equality or by Trade Union action. A long campaign was needed to build up the pressure from both the local and national level. Some opening shots in that campaign have already been fired, with the 20,000 signatures on the Anti-Nazi League's petition and the Council's request for government and CRE intervention.

As we reported in the last issue of HPP, the Front have now formally applied to have the use of the building changed into a printworks. They also claim that the building is not used as a headquarters, but as a

warehouse. The conference discussed these points, and decided that the urgent task was to inject the social and moral issue into the rather cozy planning discussions that have taken place so far and to oppose Excalibur House in the same way that a noxious chemical works would be opposed for the dangerous poisons that would be manufactured

there. Thus it was vital to urge the authorities to provide a full public opportunity for the widest

possible range of trade unions, community groups, tenants' associations, ethnic minority organisations and residents to spell out their evidence why the Front's application should be turned down. The conference urged people to write to the chairperson of the Council's Planning and Highways Committee, Bob Masters, at Hackney Town Hall.

Detailed letters opposing the Front's application for change of use of the building should be sent to Tom Bulley, Directorate of Planning,

Shoreditch House, 239 Old Street, EC1. Hackney and Tower Hamlets Trade Councils will be producing a special leaflet and poster for residents and local workers, urging them to oppose the planning application.

It is much easier to call for the cutting off of supplies and services than to achieve it through trade union action. Workers in the front line would need to be assured of massive support before many would even consider withdrawing services to the NF. Many key unions might be very reluctant to participate after the experience of Grunwick. So the bigger the storm of protest about the NF HQ in Hackney, the more courage the workers in this position will find.

This is why there has been a call for a mass propaganda drive against the Front and for other workers to follow the lead of NATSOPA and SOGAT who have blacked work for the NF and stopped all supplies of paper, ink, printing machinery and other printing materials.

If the NF go ahead with

their plans to set up a social club then other unions might well black all supplies of beer and other drink. Already a number of pubs in the area refuse to serve the Front.

A number of workers from key branches in the public

sector said that they were prepared to take what action they could at the right moment. Obviously, details were not spelt out at this stage.

The conference felt that the best plan was to call for a boycott of Excalibur House. This was also advised by the TU Advisory Council of the ANL.

Also, it was emphasised that workers in the area could assist with information about who enters the building and what goes on outside. Evidence is needed that the building is indeed the Front headquarters. The names of suppliers of goods and services are also needed. Any objection to planning application would be helped by such evidence, especially photographs.

Obviously people should be very careful how they approach such matters, as heavies like Derek Day are known to spend a lot of their time just looking out the window to see if anyone is hanging around. HPP is hoping to co-operate in gathering such information, and anything can be sent to us, in confidence.

The Anti-Nazi League is planning another massive demonstration ending in Victoria Park on May 27. The conference urged them to use the march as part of the campaign against the NF headquarters, and to route the march along Great Eastern Street.

POLICE BRUTALITY

The extraordinary Winston James case resumed at Highbury Corner magistrates' court on March 22. (See March issue of HPP for previous hearing.) Mr James was accused of assaulting two police officers, and of obstruction.

On March 22, nine witnesses told how James had gone to court to watch committal proceedings involving two youths charged with the murder of Michael Ferreira, a young black who was stabbed in Stoke Newington High Street in December. The magistrates had ordered the public gallery to be cleared after there was a disturbance. Mr James, who had already left the public gallery went back into the court lobby after he heard shouting inside.

One of the witnesses, Sandra Colledge, who was behind Mr James when the alleged offence took place, said: "He was pushed into a corner by police and punched in the face."

Another defence witness, Mr Alan Patterson, who had at that moment come into the court annexe in search of a lavatory, described what happened. "I heard a commotion and a lot of shouting. Then I saw Mr James being thrown physically against



the wall by police officers. He hit the wall, and other police officers physically pinned him to the ground. Mr James was shouting, 'I'm not violent, there's no need to use such force', or words to that effect."

Mr Patterson said that James then screamed something about his testicles. Asked by James' defence barrister, Mr Ian MacDonald, whether James was in any position to offer resistance, Mr Patterson replied: "No, he was being physically held down. He was being brutalised."

The court heard how James was then taken to nearby Islington police station and charged with assault and obstruction.

In his summing up, MacDonald said that 'the police had committed an unnecessary and gratuitous act of brutality in open view.' He said that the police seemed quite proud of grabbing the defendant by the testicles, and that the police officer concerned "expects when he comes into a magistrates' court that he will be believed and that the defendant will not be."

Mr James was acquitted on two charges of assault, but found guilty of obstructing a police officer. He said that he saw the outcome of the case as a 'part victory', which he only attributed to the efforts of the defence lawyer. "Had I not been a relatively well-off student with access to a barrister, and if so many people had not come forward as witnesses, no doubt the outcome would have been different," he said.

Winston James is now considering whether to make a complaint against the police. "It has been such a strain on me the past few months, that now I just want to get back to my studies and start living again."

Gypsy Delegation to meet Council?

A group of gypsies on a site next to Haggerston Park are once again being threatened with eviction. Many people feel that they should be allowed to stay there - or moved only if they can be found a permanent site somewhere near.

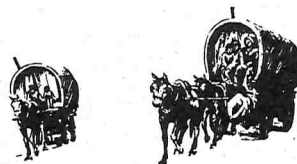
The Council is obliged, under the Caravan Sites Act of 1968, to provide a permanent site for travelling people. Hackney tried to get itself exempted from this obligation - as did many other boroughs - using as an excuse the "unavailability of land". The government turned down this excuse nearly four years ago, and since then the Council claims it has been looking for a site and hasn't yet found one.

If there was a permanent site in Hackney, then it could be argued that the gypsies would no longer be forced to live in the dirty and untidy sites that they are forced into now, when they know that their stop-



ping place is only temporary.

The gypsies from Haggerston Park are hoping to send a deputation to the Council to put this point, and to emphasise the Council's obligations under the 1968 Act. The Gypsy Council, which is the gypsies' own elected representative body, want to send members with this delegation. However, Hackney Council's standing orders mean that it can only receive deputations from council ratepayers or electors, which travelling people are not. As the Council has so far refused to find a permanent site for these people, then it surely should allow them in to argue their case?



Schools: would closure be best?

The Inner London Education Authority (ILEA) has recently announced a number of possible plans for the reorganisation of schools in Hackney. COLIN RAVDEN, a teacher in a Hackney comprehensive, looks at these plans, and suggests that the closure of some schools might be in Hackney's best interests. The second part of his article will follow next month.

Falling numbers of school pupils are now affecting most areas of Britain, because of the low birth rate of the 1960s. But in areas such as Inner London, the situation is particularly dramatic due to the shift of population outwards to suburbs and new towns. The people who move out are mainly young families with school-age children.

In 1963, almost 6,000 children were born in Hackney; by 1975 this figure had halved to under 3,000. Only about 60 per cent of the children born here go to Hackney primary schools - the other 40 per cent have already moved out. And during their primary school career a further 10-20 per cent move out, so that secondary school intake accounts for less than half of the children born in the borough.

Faced with these facts, the Inner London Education Authority has produced discussion proposals for the future of its secondary schools in Hackney. There are 15 schools, all comprehensive. ILEA's current discussion proposals include three possibilities: 1. To keep all 15 schools open and let their pupil numbers shrink; 2. To reduce the number of schools; 3. To have separate schools for 11-14 year olds and 14-18 year olds, with three of the lower schools linked to one upper school in a "federation".

This timescale is woefully inadequate for public bodies to digest the complicated issues. Even more worrying, consultation is bypassing all organised community bodies. Instead, ILEA is going direct to teachers and parents in secondary schools, thus encouraging them to respond in a fragmented, school-centred way. Primary school parents, the ones most affected by the future of secondary schools, are not to be formally consulted.

Consultation

However, at least there is limited consultation and it is vital that local bodies and individuals make the most of it to prevent Hackney being landed with a second-rate system of secondary schools. The situation poses the greatest ever threat to comprehensive education in the borough, but at the same time offers the greatest-ever chance for educational development.

We are so accustomed to authorities, such as health authorities, using the smoke-screen of reorganisation to perpetrate economies that we have come to regard all closures as cuts and tend to adopt a reflex posture of opposition to any school reorganisation.

Secondary school reorganisation need not conflict with a policy of maintaining the present level of resources within the education service.

Reorganisation is merely an attempt to make best use of those resources and tackle real problems that actually exist when pupil numbers fall.

There are two main problems. One is that a half-empty school system gives enormous power to the market forces of parental choice to close unpopular schools by sending no pupils there. If closures are to come, better that they should be planned by ILEA than imposed by parental prejudice. The second problem is that shrinking schools present educational difficulties and limited opportunities.

Intake into Hackney secondary schools reached its peak in 1973. Between then and 1978 there has been a fall in intake by about a fifth, but this has affected very few schools. Edith Cavell and Shoreditch have fallen by over 60 per cent, Clissold Park by



opinion closing some. They combine the call for no closures with a demand for all schools to receive an equal number of pupils, but this requires either new legal powers for ILEA or a drastic change in public preferences.

The parliamentary bill which fell when the election was called would have given local authorities only limited power to reduce schools' intakes against parental wishes.

As for changing public opinion, there really seems no hope. Increasing resources to improve educational facilities will not alter a reputation based on misinformed,

authority, should be almost entirely outside that authority's control.

The most dangerous form taken by this freedom from democratic control is the fact that all voluntary schools retain vestiges of selective procedures which weaken our comprehensive system. ILEA has a "balance of ability" formula for each borough which dictates the proportion of "above average", "average" and "below average" pupils each secondary school should take if all are to receive an equally comprehensive intake.

In 1978 in Hackney the formula (derived from testing the pupils transferring from primary to secondary school) was:

Above average: 16 per cent
Average: 50 per cent
Below average: 34 per cent

But the two Catholic schools have their own, more favourable formula: 18 per cent, 62 per cent, 20 per cent. In other words, they have far fewer of the more backward children.

Leaving all schools open would undoubtedly give these voluntary schools a vastly increased proportion of Hackney's pupils and represent a serious challenge to the comprehensive system.

There is also the second problem. Even if ILEA could control school intakes absolutely, there would by 1985 be just over 90 pupils transferring to each school, by 1988 only 80. Most educational opinion regards such numbers as dangerously low for the provision of a stimulating comprehensive educational diet. Even if schools were resourced (with teachers, books, equipment, etc) as if they had

twice that number of pupils - and it is unrealistic to expect that they could be - it is still doubtful whether they could offer a good education.

This is because the most important element in a school is the pupils. Without them it stops providing the range of activities and the stimulation it should.

In secondary schools the problem becomes mainly one of timetable construction, especially for older age groups. There are not enough classes or flexibility and classes in the less popular subjects become unteachably small.

Sixth form size

The greatest problem is sixth form size. Schools with an intake of 80 pupils would have a total sixth form of 30 pupils if current staying-on rates were maintained. Of course, smaller classes and other educational improvements should mean that sixth forms will grow, but it is still unlikely that 15 tiny schools would each have a sixth form big enough to provide a satisfactory curriculum.

The result would inevitably be the removal of sixth-formers from schools into a new sixth form college (or the present Hackney College). Such a move has always been bitterly opposed as a weakening of the comprehensive system.

Small schools therefore pose many dangers. A no-closure policy made sense in the early 1970s when rolls were expected to fall only minimally, but now it would create tiny schools and therefore be educationally disastrous, weakening the comprehensive system and lowering school standards.

We realise that Colin Ravden's views will not be agreed with by all teachers and parents. Some of these are supporting the Hackney Schools Stay OK! campaign described below. We hope to hear from as many teachers, parents and pupils in time for our next issue.

CONSULTATION DATES

- May 11 - Latest date for submission of comments to Education Officer, County Hall, SE1
- May 28 - ILEA's definitive recommendations issued
- June 11 - 4.30 pm, Hackney Downs School. Secondary teachers' meeting
- June 14 - 7.00 pm, Hackney Downs School. Public meeting
- June 22 - Latest date for submission of comments on recommendations.
- July 11 - ILEA's Development Sub-committee to consider recommendations and submissions received

a half and South Hackney by 40 per cent. Brooke House and Dalston Mount have dropped slightly, but all other schools have remained full. In other words, free choice is killing off the four schools with the poorest reputations. (They were not previously more popular, they were simply filled up with pupils who were unable to fit into the popular schools.)

If these four fastest-shrinking schools were bad schools, perhaps we needn't worry. But their unpopularity derives from their history. They are comprehensives formed by amalgamating secondary moderns, usually in old buildings on split sites. The popular schools are mainly grammar school-based or church-controlled. Other factors such as methods of discipline, wearing of school uniform and supposed proportion of non-white pupils also influence schools' reputations.

Educational comparisons would not produce the same league table of quality as prejudiced public opinion. Some of the least popular schools have the best educational achievements. But parents are nevertheless killing them off. And in doing so, they are giving Hackney a largely single-sex system of secondary schools. Of our 15 schools, only 7 are mixed, including 2 denominational schools. Thus only 5 "county" schools (open to all pupils) are mixed and these include the four with fastest falling rolls

Those who argue for all schools to remain open are hard-pressed to explain how they could prevent parental

non-educational prejudice. (The unpopular schools have already the best resources and smallest classes. Clissold Park now has the best buildings. None of these factors have won public esteem.)

Lop-sided

A no-closure policy therefore seems bound to create a lopsided system. It will cause some schools to shrink to under 200 pupils, while others remain at 1,000. Once a school becomes as small as 200 pupils, it will inevitably be closed. The present undersubscribed schools will be worst affected - not just by eventual closure but, prior to that, by uncertainty, contraction of educational opportunities, staff transfer, demoralisation.

The operation of parental choice holds another dangerous possibility for Hackney. Among the full schools are the four "voluntary" schools (not fully controlled by ILEA) which presently take 24 per cent of secondary pupils. If they remain full while other schools decrease, they would by 1988 have 47 per cent of Hackney's pupils.

Two of them are Catholic schools and one is controlled by the Church of England. It would be an affront to our multi-ethnic community to allow religious sects to dominate educational provision.

It is also an affront to democratic principles that so high a proportion of educational provision, funded almost entirely from our rates by the local education

HACKNEY SCHOOLS STAY OK!

Hackney Schools Stay OK! is a campaign set up by parents, trade unionists, school governors and teachers to fight for the ILEA to extend the consultation period beyond May 11 so that the community in Hackney can discuss how they wish the education service to be organised.

In addition, we are demanding that ILEA maintains all schools in Hackney at the present level of resources (staffing, money, etc) while the consultation period is extended, and we are drawing up our plan for education in Hackney.

We feel that such a plan has to cover all aspects of education in Hackney, including under fives, primary and secondary education and

adult literacy, and must be discussed by all organisations and individuals in Hackney. We hope that the trade unions, tenants' associations and community groups will discuss our campaign and the ILEA proposals and write to us stating their views. We can also arrange for speakers to come to any meeting.

We are petitioning in support of our aims in Hackney's markets on Saturdays.

The campaign meets on Thursday evenings at Centreprise at 7.30 pm. Everyone interested should come.

Any donations or letters of support can be sent to Hackney Schools Stay OK! c/o Centreprise, 136 Kingsland High St, E8.

Men's politics and socialism

The second issue of *Achilles Heel*, a magazine for "men's politics and socialism" has just come out. There was an impressive response to the first issue of the magazine, which is the only national anti-sexist journal for men.

There are four pages of letters in this issue, all written in response to the first issue.

Besides the letters, there are poems, drawings and articles in the 40-page magazine which discusses both the practical and theoretical difficulties and joys of trying to be a "different" sort of man.

There is a long article in which three men from Hackney, Islington and Brixton write about the experiences of being in a men's group.

They said that they joined men's groups because their women friends were in women's groups, and these men then realised how bad their relationships with men were,



and decided to join with other men to talk about their sexual and emotional relationships with other men.

Another of the men who has joined a group commented: "Men have had a stranglehold on culture for 6,000 years, and men who are not trying to overcome their stranglehold on power are living in only half a world." The three men ended their conversation about men's groups with these conclusions: "Men's groups are fun to be in...they help me in finding out who I am and why...they are sometimes painfully

critical, but always supportive..."

The view held by many feminists is that men who are trying to stop being sexist are fooling themselves. "A leopard can't change its spots" and men are going to continue as the dominators, the oppressors, as long as they remain men, which means of course throughout their lives. However, one of the letters in this issue of *Achilles Heel* claims that "Women's liberation is redundant without a male liberation partnership." By this statement, the correspondent seems to be saying that to achieve a non-sexist society, feminists have either got to get rid of all men or there has got to be a change in the way men behave, ie a "male liberation".

Another article, called "The Family - Dead or alive" discusses family breakdown, but only from a material perspective. The article claims that in the last 20 years there has been a sexual revolution resulting from a situation where sex is the basis of marriage, and all the ties with the community and with other relatives have been swept away. There is no mention however of the growing financial and social independence of women as a result of better work opportunities. They have realised that they can survive outside the family and have moved out of unbearable home conditions which they would have had to put up with in the past.

This is a very important publication for the many men who feel that they are forced into stereotypes of being aggressive and pushy and who get laughed at when they try and be sensitive and gentle. Some non-sexist men can gain support by being in a group with other men who feel the same way, but for many men there isn't a local group, and for these *Achilles Heel* stops them feeling so isolated.

A highly recommended read, it's available from Centreprise, or Men's Free Press, 7 St Mark's Rise, E8.

There is a conference of "Men Against Sexism" in Manchester on April 6-8. If interested, contact the addresses under MEN on the information page.

Threat from chips

Last Autumn, the Hackney branch of the Workers' Educational Association ran a short series of classes called "Microchips: Silicon Electronics and Society". Since then, what seemed a rather esoteric subject for an evening class has become a major topic of debate all over the country.

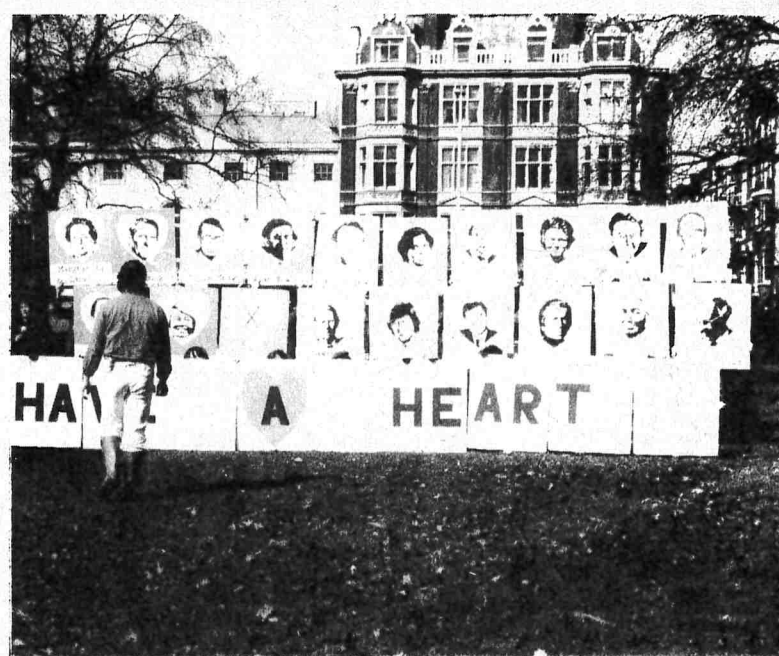
The government has "discovered" microchips and decided to spend £400 million to give Britain a stake in the coming technological revolution. The TUC has produced a short pamphlet supporting what passes as government strategy for the electronics industry. Their basic message is that if Britain is to remain competitive this new technology must be developed and adopted as rapidly as possible by British companies.



In West Germany, microchips have been labelled "job killers". It is reliably estimated that the byproduct of Britain becoming technologically competitive will be four million unemployed by 1985.

Whatever the pundits say, there is no doubt that new "technology" will become more of an issue in the coming years. Already workers at "The Times" have been locked out for three months because management will not agree to union demands over manning levels. In Bradford microchip-controlled word processors, like super-typewriters, were introduced to the development department of the borough council and 18 copy typists' jobs disappeared. NALGO have recently held a ballot of their members at the council about whether or not to take strike action on the issue.

Some of us who were involved with the WEA class have formed the East London Microchips Group with the intention of discussing some of the ways in which people will be affected by this new technology. If you want to know more, contact Dave Davies, tel 986 7010 or Dorothy Wise, tel 981 4154.



Arts need £2m

How peculiar. All those people in red, green and white rushing around Green Park. March 21 - is it some saint's birthday? And what's this? - giant placards with pictures of the Marchioness of Anglesey and the like and a slogan saying "Have a Heart". Do they all need transplants? Aha! Hang on, the placards turn and we get the message: it's a huge postcard addressed to the council of the Arts Council (the bods on the other side) from the Association of Community Artists which says, "No to £1 million. Yes to £2 million". Now what do they want all that money for?

It's simple. Community Arts projects throughout the whole country need £2 million to continue to exist, and to make available to the community the chance to take part in creative activities such as photography and printing, street theatre and festivals and film-making. Take Hackney, for example. You could learn how to make a poster at the Lenthall Road Printshop, try barge painting at Chats Palace, or go down to Hoxton Hall for the Old Time Music Hall. These are just a few things you can get involved in. If you want some more ideas, check out the information on page seven of this issue.

Community Arts needs £2 million. It's been offered £1 million. Ever since the Community Arts Committee was formed in 1975, it's had a minimal budget to operate on. What's so disgusting about this is that in 1977-8, the Arts Council spent £5 million on the Royal Opera House alone - a fat lot of use to you and me. And this year their paltry offer of £1 million comes from a total budget of £61 million.

So every year around March, Community Arts projects put in their grant applications and wait to hear whether they're going to have to close down, reduce their activities, or carry on with wages as low as the £25 take-home pay that the workers at Lenthall Road get each week.

Well, enough's enough. That's what the Association of Community Artists has decided, and they've got the support of the Community Arts Panel in their demand for adequate long-term funding and a decent wage for community artists.

The baflets (red and green, of course) read:

The Arts Council helped us get off the ground. Now they want to keep us on our knees.

For more information on the Community Arts Campaign contact: Maggie Pinhorn, ACA National Office, 240 Q301, The Lenthall Road Workshop, 254 3082, or Free Form, 249 3394.

Health chief's visit

Hackney's health services are to be cut still further. There is no "fat" left to be trimmed, as the Area Health Authority chairman accepts, so basic services will be reduced.

Already 250 "acute" beds have been closed since 1974. This means that more work is being done in fewer beds, so unless requiring technical equipment, patients are forced to spend less time in hospital.

St Bartholomew's Hospital and the speciality hospitals in the area treat many more people than they should from outside the district and yet, ignoring this fact, the regional health authority is reducing the money for this area by 1/2 per cent per annum until 1985. The effects of this are already being felt - the area has overspent by £1/2 million - largely on medical and surgical supplies, particularly in the regional specialities.

Alongside this, we have the appalling state of the caring section of the NHS in Hackney - the poor physical condition of the accommodation for our elderly, psychiatrically ill and mentally handicapped.

This is the prospect for the City and Hackney Area for the next five years. On April 17, in response to a request from the Community Health Council, the chairman of the Regional Health Authority will attend a PUBLIC MEETING at the SHOREDITCH HEALTH CENTRE at 7.30 pm. It is hoped that this meeting will see the beginning of a campaign to stop further funds being withdrawn under the reallocation of resources, to have the deprived sectors of Hackney Health Services recognised, and appropriate funds allocated to them. The NHS must be made more accountable to the community.

Fertility Control Show

Everyone who came to the special viewing of the Hackney Abortion Campaign International Exhibition on Fertility Control at the Family Centre on Saturday March 24 had an enjoyable time.

It was a sunny afternoon and this helped create the happy and relaxed atmosphere in which people were able to look at the exhibition in a leisurely fashion.

We had cups of tea and

the opportunity to sample delicious Greek, Jewish, Indian and Malaysian foods.

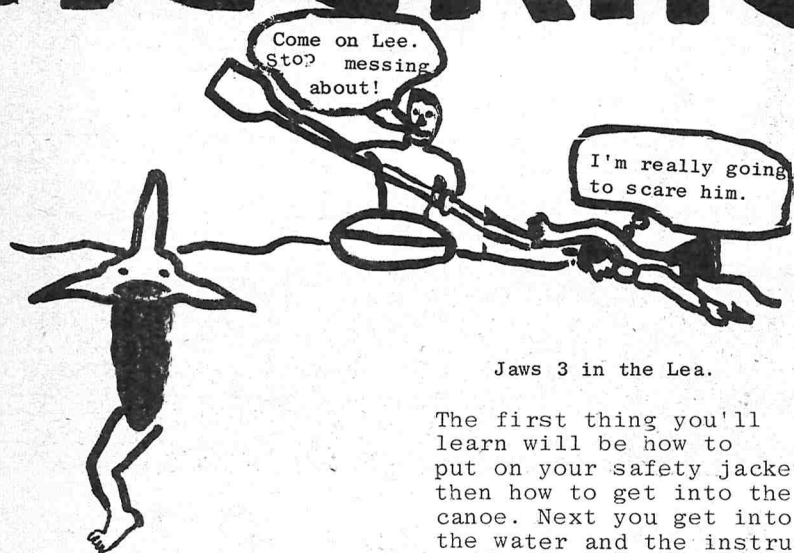
The programme was informal but included a video tape of women discussing abortion, a film about the Elizabeth Garrett Anderson hospital and songs (on record) from the West Indies.

The exhibition is now available to any group who would like to use it. Any campaigns, teachers or any other group please

contact Sarah Mudd at 20 Parkhome Road, E8, tel 249 3768.

The International Section has information about India, Europe, Latin America. The section on Britain looks at what kind of service black and immigrant women here receive in contraception and abortion, looks at Depo Provera, gynaecologists' attitudes, personal statements from Hackney women.

Hackney APR '79 Gasbag



Jaws 3 in the Lea.

YOUR FIRST STEPS TO CANOEING.

FIRST of all you go to the canoeing centre and ask where you can do a capsizing test. When you do the test you will get a certificate and you will give it to the warden at the centre when you ask to join. Then you will have to pay about 50p to join, and they will give you a membership card.

The first time you go canoeing you need to take a pair of plimsolls or trainers, swimming trunks or shorts, a towel, soap, and a change of clothes in case you fall in - or get pushed! Take some money because they've got a canteen where you can buy hot drinks.

ROCK & REGGAE AT CENTERPRISE

Last Friday there was a reggae + rock concert at Centerprise featuring three groups from Woodberry Down School - The Ital Rockers, a teachers' group, and A Cool Breeze another pupils' group.

We thought the first group was very good for their age, especially the singers. The group are aged about fourteen and their names are Wilson, (singer), Terry (guitar), Ian (organist) and Vernon (guitarist). They all go to Woodberry Down School.

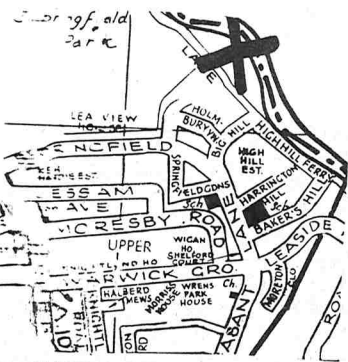
Next was the teachers' group. They were quite amusing. Their "Blue Suede Shoes" was really hard! They were the laugh of the day and a smash hit.

The first thing you'll learn will be how to put on your safety jacket, then how to get into the canoe. Next you get into the water and the instructor tells you how to use your paddles.

If you go for six months they will take you down the weir, which is really fast water and you have to

wear protective padding round your head in case you capsize and hit your head on a boulder. When you get really good you can enter galas, and have timed races, and if you get really good they will take you on the Thames.

YOUNG MARINERS' CANOEING CENTRE IS HERE :-



The last group was A Cool Breeze. Their names are Robert, Gerald, Richard, Patrick, Noel and Martin. The audience really liked this group, especially in the last song, when people were skanking to the music. The lights went out, and the party was under way. This last song certainly livened the crowd up.

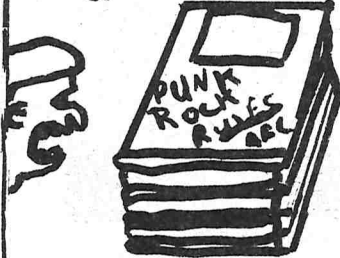
The group is looking for an audition when they leave school. We hope they make it.

About 40 people came along to hear the concert - admission 30p. The evening ended at 10pm, and everyone thought it was a great success.

HOMEWORK IN SCHOOLS

I (Lee James) go to Highbury Grove School. I think that pupils in school today get too much homework, because I get about 3-5 hours homework every week - as if us pupils don't get enough work to do in class anyway.

HOMEWORK GALAS



My opinion for homework is for the pupils to choose three homework subjects a week, and for the English and Maths teachers to set us homework for the weekend, and to give us (the pupils) a week to do the work.

There are some teachers in schools think that it is a good thing to set a class a lot of homework. I think this is stupid because surely it is better if somebody has an hour to do his English homework, say, he will do it much better if it's only a short essay than if it is a long essay with questions as well, because then he would rush it.

Surely it is better to have good quality than a lot of writing but poor quality?

I've lost my Gas Bag!



Easter Gasbag

EASTER GASBAG APRIL 18 - 27

If you would like to work in the Hackney Gasbag doing interviews, film reviews, jokes, opinions, photography and many other things, just come along to CENTERPRISE on these dates: April 18, 19, 20, and 24, 25, 26, 27th, and we will be glad to have you with us. It will be open from 11am till 3pm every day.

The winner of last month's crossword competition was a pupil from Weavers' Fields School. The solution is :- (across) 1. Motorcycle; 7. Ya; 8. Car; 9. North; 10. Add; 12. Ewes; 13. Bad; 14. Ta; 15. Len; 18. Egg; 19. Hey; 20. She; 22. Unlit; 25. Need; 26. Elder; 28. Team; 29. Oslo. (down) 1. Money; 2. Tyre; 3. Oats; 4. cc; 5. Ya; 6. Cradle; 11. Dong; 13. Bath; 14. Taste; 16. Ten; 17. Ryloa (anag); 19. Hunt; 21. Ends; 24. Tel; 25. Ero.

The people who did this issue of the Gas Bag were:-

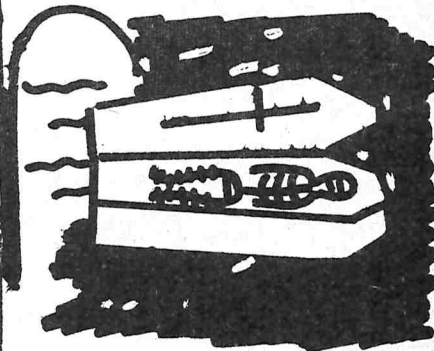
Christopher Bryant; Janet Smith; Dean Smith; Delroy Smith; Paul Bellenie; Mark Sexton; Roland Black; and Lee James.

A WALK IN THE CEMETRY.

A WALK IN THE CEMETERY

On Tuesday March 9th me and a boy named Paul Clark went for a walk in Stoke Newington graveyard and walked about. We saw a very old grave - the man died in 1805. Then we found a fir cone. Then on the way back we went down the wrong path and got lost so we had a game of 'war'.

Then some man told us to get 'get lost' and Paul said, 'We are lost', then he said 'Piss off', so we did and carried on playing 'war'. Then Paul said, 'Let's go home', so we did.



WORD SEARCH

THINGS TO DO - WORD SEARCH

There are 23 hidden words in this square - see if you can find them.

The words are :-
arouse; new; apple; sex;
mouse; siren; pan; let;
toot; ape; peel; pest;
ever; shout; elephant;
form; ewo; oxo; stop;
seem; pot; saxophone.

S	H	X	Y	O	P	Z	X	M	T
E	Z	M	X	T	E	V	O	O	Q
X	U	O	T	B	S	H	O	U	T
O	M	E	R	P	T	T	Z	S	M
E	H	A	R	O	U	S	E	E	M
N	G	P	O	T	S	F	O	R	M
E	P	E	E	L	M	U	N	G	Z
R	E	L	E	P	H	A	N	T	W
I	P	O	P	A	P	P	L	E	M
S	A	X	A	P	H	O	N	E	Z

information

All listings on this page are inserted absolutely FREE.
For the next issue, just send us your information by
Friday 20 April

Write to Hackney People's Press, c/o 136 Kingsland High
Street, London E.8.

Community, Tenants and Pensioners Groups

HACKNEY PENSIONERS ASSOCIATION
34 Dalston Lane, E8
Advice service on Tuesday and Thursdays from
10.30 to 4pm. Tea Bar Monday to Friday
10.30 to 4pm.

TASK FORCE
34 Dalston Lane, E8. Tel. 254 1620
Free advice for pensioners in Hackney. Odd jobs and
visits in N16 and N4 only. Pensioners' activities and
neighbourhood care in N5.

**HACKNEY ASSOCIATION FOR WELFARE OF
OLD PEOPLE**
22 Dalston Lane, E8. Tel. 254 0715

HARAMBEE 2 PROJECT
74 Downham Road N1.
Social and advice centre, aimed particularly at
black people.
Tuesday 10am-10pm
Thursday 10am-4.30pm
Friday 10am-10pm

OFF CENTRE
25 Hackney Grove, E8. Tel. 985 8566
Advice for young people between 13 and 25 with any
problems.
Monday-Friday 10am-6pm (open until 8.30pm on
Thursdays).

FRIENDS ANONYMOUS SERVICE
Friendship House, 27 Hackney Grove, E8.
24 hour telephone service with people always willing
to listen and act.
986 2233 (24 hours)
95 0973 (office hours)
06 9146 (office hours)

**FEDERATION OF HACKNEY TENANTS
ASSOCIATIONS**
Represents borough, GLC and private tenants
throughout Hackney. Contact joint secretaries
for details: Bob Darke, 154 Trelawney Estate,
Paragon Road, E9 and Steve Jacobs, c/o ALHE,
17 Victoria Park Square, E2 (981 1221).

HACKNEY HOUSING ACTION GROUP
Concerned about the blight of homes left empty
for long periods in Hackney and working to get
them used. Contact Jon Webber, Centerprise, 136
Kingsland High Street, E8.

HACKNEY GINGERBREAD
Group for one parent families. Meets every Monday
at the Family Centre, Rectory Road, N16. Creche
available. Contact Teresa Blackhall, 729 1647 for
details.

HOMERTON GINGERBREAD
Group for one parent families. Meets every other
Friday at the Wally Foster Centre. Contact 985 3972
for details.

HACKNEY UNITED TENANTS ASSOCIATION
c/o 35 Finmere House, Woodberry Down, N4.

Women

HACKNEY ABORTION CAMPAIGN
Meetings fortnightly at 20 Parkholme Road, E8.
Contact 249 3768 for details.

WOMEN'S CENTRE
1 Cazenove Road, N16.
Advice, creche, children's clothes swap shop,
beginners photography, crafts, yoga, relaxation,
consciousness raising groups, food co-op, alternative
medicine, self-defence. Further information from
806 6664. All women welcome.

RAPE CRISIS CENTRE
Tel. 340 6145. 24 hour information and advice.

HACKNEY SOCIALIST FEMINIST GROUP
Meet alternate Mondays at the Factory, Matthias
Road, N 16, at 7.30pm. Contact Pat 254 5821 or
Harriet 254 6208.

**HACKNEY TRADES COUNCIL WOMEN'S
SUB COMMITTEE**
Re-formed recently. Meets once a month. Contact
Judy Newcombe, 254 0685 for details. All women
and men welcome.

Health

**CITY AND HACKNEY COMMUNITY HEALTH
COUNCIL**
Shoreditch Health Centre, 210 Kingsland Road, E2.
Tel. 739 6308/8351.
The public's voice in the NHS—provides advice,
takes up your complaints and criticisms. Open
meeting on 3rd Tuesday of each month at 6.30pm.
Publishes HEALTH IN HACKNEY: a comprehensive
FREE guide to health facilities and services in the
area.

HANDICAPPED CHILDREN IN HACKNEY
Advice, ideas, information. Trying to contact all
families in district with a handicapped child.
Contact Ann Purdon, 48 Mount Pleasant Lane, E5.
Tel. 808 8438.

THE BIRTH CENTRE
188 Old Street, EC1. Tel. 251 4076.
Information, advice, lectures and seminars on birth at
home and in hospital.
Open evening every Wednesday 8pm. 25p.

EAST LONDON WOMEN'S HEALTH GROUP
c/o 116 Albion Drive, E8.

STOKE NEWINGTON HEALTH GROUP
Local people interested in all matters
concerned with health. Contact Alan Clarke,
21 Kynaston Road, N.16. 254 3277.

COMMUNITY HEALTH FOUNDATION
188 Old Street, EC1. 251 4076.

Advice

Free legal advice on housing, landlord and tenant,
employment, social security, welfare, matrimonial,
immigration and discrimination problems can be
obtained from the following centres:

CENTERPRISE
136 Kingsland High Street, E8. Tel. 254 9632.
THURSDAYS 6.30-7.30pm.

HOXTON HALL
128a Hoxton Street, N1. Tel. 739 5431.
WEDNESDAYS 7-8pm.

KINGSMEAD
Wally Foster Centre, Homerton High Street, E9.
Tel. 985 3804.
TUESDAYS 7-8pm.

SNAGS
102 Manor Road, N16. Tel. 800 3770.
MONDAYS & WEDNESDAYS 7-8pm. (802 7949).

ALLEN ROAD
12 Allen Road, N16.
THURSDAYS 7-8pm.

Advice can also be obtained from:

HACKNEY ADVICE BUREAU & LAW CENTRE
236-8 Mare Street, E8. Tel. 986 8446.
Open Monday-Friday 10am-5pm (7.30 on
Thursdays).
Legal aid and advice on housing, rents, repairs
and employment problems.

CITIZENS ADVICE BUREAUX
1-11 Hoxton Street, N1. Tel. 739 4654.
106 Old Street, EC1. Tel. 253 2155.

**HACKNEY COUNCIL FOR RACIAL
EQUALITY. 245 Mare St, E8.**
TUESDAYS 7-8.30pm.
Immigration, discrimination, housing law and
other problems. 986 4121.

THE FAMILY CENTRE
50 Rectory Road, N16. Tel. 249 8334.
Information and help in all community problems.
Cooking, washing, creche facilities. Open all day.

HOUSING ADVICE CENTRE
302-4 Mare Street, E8. Tel. 986 8123.
Helps with all housing problems. Repairs, rebates,
landlord/tenant, council/tenant.

HACKNEY CENTRAL INFORMATION BUREAU
Town Hall, Mare Street, E8. Tel. 986 3123.

**HACKNEY NORTH LABOUR PARTY ADVICE
CENTRE**
5 Stamford Hill, N16.
Advice and information on legal, financial, welfare,
housing, social security and personal problems.
FRIDAYS 7-8pm.

**RECTORY HOUSING AND WELFARE ADVICE
CENTRE**
Family Centre, 50 Rectory Road, N16.
Help with housing, employment, health and
social security and community and race relations
problems.
SUNDAYS 10.30am-12.00 noon.

Advice can also be obtained from **HARAMBEE 2
PROJECT, OFF CENTRE and FRIENDS
ANONYMOUS**. See Community Groups listing on
this page.

For MPs and councillors Advice surgeries see
LABOUR PARTY under **POLITICAL GROUPS**
listing on this page.

Arrested? Helping enquiries? Evicted?
EMERGENCY LEGAL SERVICE
Ring 986 9891. 24 hour free legal
service from 6pm Friday over whole
weekend.

Education

HACKNEY FRIENDS OF THE EARTH
Active group, campaigning on
safe energy, bikes, wildlife,
recycling etc. Contact Jim
Read, 67 Fairholt Road, N16.
802 0122.

HACKNEY ANTI-NUCLEAR GROUP
Open to all those wishing
to combat nuclear power.
Meets every other Thursday
in Centerprise. Contact
Simon 249 3008.

RECYCLED PAPER
High quality recycled papers (duplicating,
printing, writing or card), personalised stationery
and silk screen printing available from Regenesis,
32 Warwick Road, N 16. Tel. 249 8367.

Meditation

**PARTNERSHIP FOR PROGRESS IN
HACKNEY**
Simple, natural, effortless transcendental
meditation technique realizes full creative
potential. Introductory talks: 8pm Wednesdays,
Thursdays and Fridays at 51 Downs Park Road,
E8. Tel. 254 6280.

ANANDA MARGA
For spiritual progress and social change. Introduction
to meditation classes every Wednesday 7.30pm. at
1 Cazenove Road, N16. Everyone welcome.

Workshops

THE WORKSHOP
81 Lenthall Road, E8. Tel. 254 3082.
Print your own posters and
T-shirts. Cost of materials
only. Open by arrangement.

COMET WORKSHOP
Halcomb Street, N1. Tel. 729 0936.
Learn sewing, macrame, toymaking, woodwork.
Creche available, toy library. Tea and coffee.
Open every weekday.

HACKNEY LANGUAGE SCHEME
Teach the kind of English
needed in day-to-day life.
Classes operate throughout
Hackney. For further infor-
mation contact Annette
Giles, 249 1496, or call
at the Family Centre, Rectory
Road, N.16 on Thursday mornings.



Political Groups

HACKNEY LABOUR PARTY
**HACKNEY NORTH AND STOKE
NEWINGTON**
Constituents advice service at 7pm every
Friday at 5 Stamford Hill, N16 when local
councillors are present. David Weitzmann, MP,
also runs advice service every other Sunday at
11am. Ken Livingstone, GLC councillor, has
advice service generally on 4th Thursday of
each month.
Details from 5 Stamford Hill, N16. Tel.
800 7430.
HACKNEY NORTH LABOUR PARTY
YOUNG SOCIALISTS: for details contact
secretary, Mumtaz Khan, c/o 5 Stamford Hill,
N16.

HACKNEY SOUTH & SHOREDITCH
Constituents advice service at 7.30pm. every Friday
at 96 Dalston Lane, E8. Ron Brown, MP, available
2nd and 4th Friday of each month. Margaret
Morgan, GLC Councillor, available 1st Friday of
each month. Local councillors every Friday. Advice
service also operates at Holy Trinity Church Hall,
Bletchley Street, N1, at 7pm. on 1st and 3rd Fridays,
Ron Brown is present on 1st and 3rd Fridays,
Margaret Morgan on 3rd Fridays, and local
councillors on 1st and 3rd Fridays.
**HACKNEY SOUTH LABOUR PARTY YOUNG
SOCIALISTS:** for details contact secretary
c/o 96 Dalston Lane, E8.

HACKNEY CENTRAL
Constituents advice service at 7.30pm. every Friday
at 96 Dalston Lane, E8. Stanley Clinton Davis, MP,
available every Friday. Ellis Hillman, GLC
Councillor, available every other Friday. Local
councillors every Friday.
**HACKNEY CENTRAL LABOUR PARTY YOUNG
SOCIALISTS:** for details contact Mrs A Smith,
294 Navarino Mansions, E8.

HACKNEY YOUNG COMMUNIST LEAGUE
Meets weekly. All young people welcome.
HACKNEY COMMUNIST PARTY
Twelve branches hold meetings regularly throughout
the borough. All welcome.
HACKNEY MORNING STAR GROUP
Meets weekly. Organises political, social and fund-
raising events in support of Britain's socialist daily
paper, the Morning Star. All Morning Star readers/
supporters welcome.

For further information and a copy of the monthly
newsletter detailing the meetings, campaigning actions
etc. organised by the Hackney Morning Star group,
Young Communist League and Communist Party
contact David Green, 126 Amhurst Road, E8.
Tel. 249 6374.

HACKNEY SOCIALIST WORKERS PARTY
Meets regularly in the borough. Contact Liz
739 9772 for details.

LONDON WORKERS GROUP
For independent militants, working anarchists,
and all those who wish to organise for direct
workers control. Meets fortnightly. Contact
Box W, Rising Free, 182 Upper Street, N1, or
ring Dave, 249 7042.

ANARCHY COLLECTIVE
Produces ANARCHY, a seasonal magazine on
sale in Centerprise and Rising Free, 20p. Also
involved in general anarchist activity. Ring
359 4794 before 8pm.

LIBERTARIAN COMMUNIST GROUP
c/o 136 Kingsland High Street, E8.

ANARCHIST COMMUNIST ASSOCIATION
Box 11, Rising Free, 182 Upper Street, N1.

**SOCIETY FOR ANGLO-CHINESE
UNDERSTANDING**
Hackney/Islington Branch. Contact Maureen Taylor or
Mon Lawlor (263 4359 during daytime). SACU
is open to anyone who favours friendship and
understanding between Britain and socialist China.

HACKNEY COMMITTEE AGAINST RACIALISM
All-party anti-racist campaign. Meets first
Wednesday of each month at the Family Centre,
Rectory Road, N16.

**SOCIALIST PARTY OF GREAT BRITAIN
HACKNEY GROUP**
Meets second Thursday of every month at 8pm
at Centerprise, 136 Kingsland High Street E8.

**HACKNEY AND ISLINGTON WORLD DEVELOPMENT
MOVEMENT**
Campaigns on third world issues, especially
against the Arms Trade to these countries.

NEW COMMUNIST PARTY
Hackney Branch meets on a
Tuesday night at Centerprise,
8pm. Information from NCP,
395 Walworth Road, SE17 2AW.

Hackney Socialist Challenge
Supporters Group meets
fortnightly on Thursdays at
7.30pm in the Britannia,
Mare St.
Further details from Hackney
SC, c/o PO Box 50, London N.1.
or from Martin, 359 8180 (day).

Men

DALSTON MEN'S GROUP
Contact Pete, 39 Parkhome Road, E8. Tel. 249 3072.

EAST LONDON/BRIXTON MEN'S GROUP
Contact Paul, 12 Montague Road, E8. Tel. 254 9497.

EAST LONDON MEN'S CENTRE
19 Redmans Road, E1. Tel. 790 2454.

OFF CENTRE

Drop-in centre for Young
Unemployed.

Free snacks, use of telephones
and newspapers. A meeting
place for the young unemployed.

Off Centre Basement.
25 Hackney Grove, E8.
986 4016.



Children

HACKNEY UNDER FIVES
136 Kingsland High Street, E8.
Tel. 254 9145.
Information and support for parents with children
below school age. Contact Madge Harte. Stores
are available every Saturday from 10am-12.30pm.
Open monthly meetings first Tuesday of every
month at 8pm. in Centerprise.

HACKNEY PLAY ASSOCIATION
136 Kingsland High Street, E8.
Tel. 254 9145.
Information, advice and help to people
organising play facilities for children. Contact
Lilian McPetrige or Mo Ross.

CHILD-CARE BULLETIN COLLECTIVE
112b Forest Road E8.
Publishes bulletins and pamphlets about child
care and related topics. Collective is open to
anyone interested. Contact 226 0817 or 254
2227 for details of next meeting—with creche.

TOY LIBRARY

Family Centre, 50 Rectory Road,
N.16. A new toy library for all
children under 5. Play facilities,
tea. Every Tuesday 2-3.30pm.
Contact Sue Corlett 806 1968.

Transport

**HACKNEY PUBLIC TRANSPORT ACTION
COMMITTEE**
Meets regularly to discuss how to improve public
transport in Hackney. Contact Tony Jacobs,
3 Hockley House, Morning Lane, E9.
Tel. 986 2303.

HACKNEY CYCLISTS ACTION GROUP
Contact Tessa Bain, 10
Kynaston Road, N.16. 254 4559

Gays

EAST LONDON FAGGOTS
Collective of gay socialists living and working in
East London. Contact 19 Redmans Road, E1.
Tel. 790 2454.

GAY SWITCHBOARD
Tel. 837 7324. 24 hour information and advice.

**EAST LONDON CHE (Campaign for Homosexual
Equality)**
East London CHE welcomes gay women and men.
For details phone John, 504 1110 or Kate,
539 2331.

GEMMA
Gemma Group for Disabled Lesbians, including
older women. Contact BM Box 5700, London
WC1V 6XX.

Food

TOWARDS JUPITER
191 Mare Street E8. 985 5394
Wholefood shop also selling books and crafts.

FOOD FOR ALL
3 Cazenove Road, N16. Tel. 806 4138.
Wholefood shop, also selling books and crafts. All
food carries levy to support the women's centre
next door (see WOMEN) and proposed school at
5 Cazenove Road.

HACKNEY SOCIETY

An amenity group, affiliated
to the Civic Trust,
concerned with Hackney's
environment and architecture.
Meets on the third Monday of
each month.
Details from Chairman, David
Batchelor, Tel. 985 7937
or Secretary, Robert Hill,
75 Glyn Road E5 Tel. 986 8761.

Music and Broadcasts

ISLINGTON & HACKNEY MUSIC WORKSHOP
Sing-song third Thursday every month, 8pm. Free.
The Florence, Florence Street, N1.

HACKNEY HOSPITAL RADIO
Programme schedule:
Mon-Fri 7pm-9pm Pop Show
9pm-11pm Easy Listening Show
Sunday 1pm-5pm Pop Shows
5pm-7pm Soul Show
7pm-10pm Sunday Supplement
(local and international
news, "In Bed with a
Book", funnies and
music.)

Hackney Radio Roadshow disco unit. Contact
Bob Kingsley 539 6235 or Hackney Hospital
Radio, 985 5555 ext 115.

Please send me a year's
subscription to HPP. I
enclose a cheque/PO for
£2 made out to HACKNEY
PEOPLE'S PRESS.

Send to HPP, c/o 136
Kingsland High St, E8

Name _____

Address _____





Above: The Rio. Below: Local band Soulyard, who play the first concert at the Rio on 7 April.



RIO OPENS!

At last the Rio is ours

The Hackney group that has been working for the past two and a half years to buy the lease of the Rio Cinema on Kingsland High Street took possession on Monday April 2.

From now on, the new RIO CENTRE will not only show films for addicts of Kung Fu but will aim to please anybody who likes "going to the pictures". The opening programme, see on the left caters for the whole family over the Easter holidays. There are also a series of great double features for fans of Jack Nicholson, Bob Dylan, Humphrey Bogart and Clint Eastwood.

And every Saturday morning at 9.45am, just right for the busy parent going shopping, there is a film show for kids.

THE RIO CENTRE will eventually be transformed at a cost of something like £125,000 into a multi-purpose theatre capable of holding concerts, modern dance events, art exhibitions, recitals and classes organised by the Film Workshop in the basement. There will be a bar and room enough to sit and meet friends.

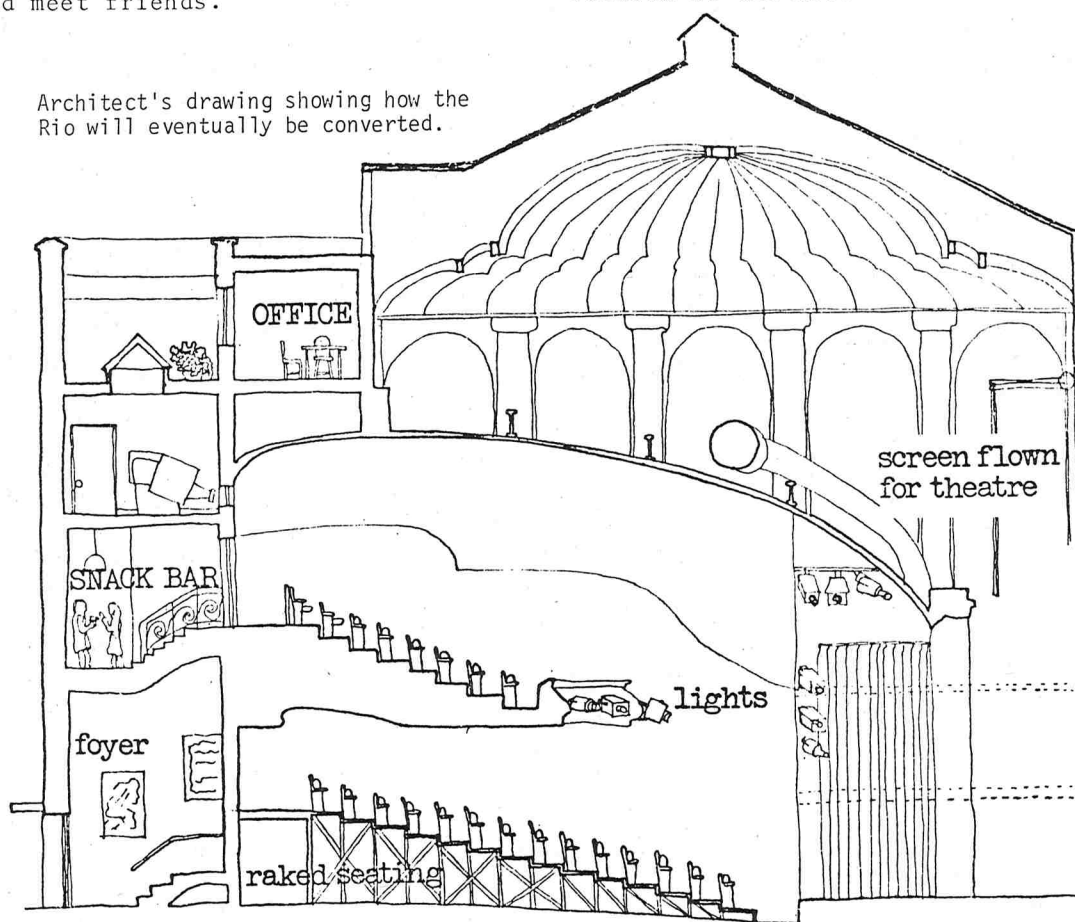
For the moment, the emphasis is to be on movies although the new management will be putting on at least one live concert each month. The first is on April 7 when SOULYARD will head a programme supported by JUBA and LEE KISMIN.

Most of the money for the project has come from Hackney Borough Council but the Greater London Arts Association, the Arts Council and the Commission for Racial Equality have all been very generous.

With this support, and more importantly, the support that people in the area can give by going along, there is a great chance that the RIO will be a success.

The RIO is now registered as a charity and a company limited by guarantee. The group running it want as many people to get involved as possible. The immediate need is for volunteers to work as ushers. If you would like to help, get in touch with Christine Jackson at the RIO.

Architect's drawing showing how the Rio will eventually be converted.



APRIL

Monday 9 For 6 days	THIEF OF BAGHDAD (U) and SPIDERMAN STRIKES BACK (U)	4pm, 7.30pm Sat 12.30pm
Saturday 14	CHILDREN'S FILM MATINEE	9.30am
Saturday 14 Late	THE LAST DETAIL (X) and FIVE EASY PIECES (X)	11pm
Sunday 15 Afternoon		2.30pm
Monday 16 For 6 days	RETURN FROM WITCH MOUNTAIN (U)	2.15pm, 5pm 7.45pm
Saturday 21	CHILDREN'S FILM MATINEE	9.30am
Saturday 21 Late	THE LONG GOODBYE (X) and THIEVES LIKE US (X)	11pm
Sunday 22 Afternoon		2.30pm
Monday 23 For 6 days	THE LAST WALTZ (A) and RENALDO AND CLARA (AA)	7pm Sat 3pm
Saturday 28 Late	CASABLANCA (U) and THE MALTESE FALCON (A)	11pm
Sunday 29 Afternoon		2.30pm
Monday 30 For 6 days	THE ENFORCER (X) and THE GAUNTLET (X)	7pm Sat 3.30pm

The Rio Cinema, 107 Kingsland High Street, London E8.
254 6677

The Rio is supported by GLAA, ACGB, CRE and LBH.

HACKNEY PEOPLE'S PRESS

HACKNEY PEOPLE'S PRESS is an alternative non-profit making monthly newspaper produced by an open group of people who live or work in Hackney. We publish this paper because we believe that Hackney needs an alternative to the commercial press to serve the real interests of its people. We have no editor, no shareholders, no commercial advertising and no party political backing.

HPP is your newspaper: anyone who lives or works in Hackney is welcome to come and help us. No one is paid by the paper and all decisions are made collectively.

We hold meetings every Monday (except the last one in each month) at 8pm in Centreprise, 136 Kingsland High Street, E8. You can come along to one of these meetings and volunteer to help us produce, write or sell the next issue - or simply tell us what you think of the paper.

If you can't come one Monday

then write to us c/o Centreprise or ring 249 0311 any evening or weekend.

HPP is sold through various newsagents and other outlets throughout Hackney. If you think that your newsagent would like to sell it, on sale or return, then please contact us. And if you don't think that you can spare the time to become more fully involved, but you enjoy reading the paper and think more people should read it, then please get in touch if you are willing to sell a few copies to your friends or neighbours or at meetings.